

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	M. Miyake et al.	Attorney Docket No.:	MICS124074
Application No.:	10/517,248	Art Unit:	2883 / Confirmation No: 2899
Filed:	June 20, 2005	Examiner:	Kaveh C. Kianni
Title:	FERRULES FOR OPTICAL FIBER CONNECTOR, OPTICAL FIBER CONNECTOR STRUCTURE, AND SLEEVE FOR CONNECTING FERRULES		

RESPONSE

Seattle, Washington 98101

August 29, 2007

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

In response to the Office Action dated March 29, 2007, Applicants provide the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 20-43 are pending. In this regard, claims 33-43 have been withdrawn from consideration. Further, claims 26-32 have been allowed. Claims 1 and 20-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Kobayashi et al., US 6,358,874 (hereinafter "Kobayashi").

With respect to Kobayashi, the Examiner opines that Kobayashi discloses a pair of ferrules 1, comprising a male ferrule and a female ferrule. In this regard, the Examiner points to Figure 7. Applicants respectfully submit that Kobayashi does not disclose nor suggest ferrules with a male and matching female end. Rather, Kobayashi merely discloses a chamfer 1c formed in the abutting proximal ends of the ferrules 1. In this regard, see Col. 12, lines 10-12. The chamfer 1c in Kobayashi simply facilitates assembly of the ferrule joint. Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by Kobayashi. Thus the Office Action has not established a *prima facie* showing of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and reconsideration to this end is respectfully

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